

Shelton State Courier



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College 'begins a new era' with Chimes dedication

By Julie Shukla
Staff Writer

Discussion of the significance of the Shelton State Chimes was still in the air while history was being marked for the college on April 23.

However, Two-Year College Chancellor Dr. Roy Johnson addressed the purpose of the clock, which was billed as a close to the college's 50th Anniversary Jubilee.

According to Johnson, Shelton served over 12,000 students last year, and two out of every three students in Alabama is enrolled in community colleges; therefore, the goal is to make colleges like Shelton the comfortable college of choice by creating monuments and symbols like the clock tower.

The clock tower dedication began at 11 a.m. and included good music, five effective speakers, and the inaugural ringing of the bells at noon with lunch provided afterwards by Willy T's.

Before the dedication began, the Shelton Brass Ensemble directed by Dr. Alan Blacksheer played a variety of songs from "National Emblem" to "Torch of Liberty," setting the mood for the ceremony with a good performance. Jennifer Huggins, a Shelton State student, followed by singing "One Moment in Time," doing a wonderful job as well.

Sandra Ray, who is with the Alabama State Board of Education District VII, welcomed everyone. She is part of the governing body for two-year schools, which is one of Shelton's greatest supporters. According to Ray, the clock tower is a judgment of time showing us how far we have gone and how far we are going.

The idea of the clock tower came from the Shelton State Community College Foundation in which Tommy Hester spoke on behalf of. According to Hester, the clock tower has brought on another

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Photo by Courier Staff

College Chancellor Dr. Roy Johnson gave the keynote speech for the Chimes dedication. Johnson noted that community colleges are becoming the first choice for higher ed students.



Jennifer Taylor

Taylor sets student tone for Chimes

Shelton ambassador and Phi Theta Kappa activist Jennifer Taylor was selected to represent the students at the chimes dedication. Her remarks seem to capture the best attitude and approach to history among Shelton students. By popular demand, her speech is printed here in its entirety.

Good morning! I would like to welcome everyone to this special event in the history of Shelton State. With each of you being here, you are a part of this important dedication ceremony. I am a student here at Shelton in my second year and I have been lucky enough to speak here today as a student representative.

Over the past two years, I have watched construction and improvements on this building. I have seen new classrooms added and tile put where carpet once was. But last semester, construction

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Photo by Jonathan King

Jonathan Pate, as Tessy Molmeyer and Susie Johnson, as Elaine Rutledge, prepare to take the stage in The Miss Firecracker Contest.

Sparks fly with The Miss Firecracker Contest

By Jonathan King
Chief Writer

When you walk into a theatre to take in a relaxing evening of entertainment, filled with good acting and comedy, you don't realize how much you are taking for granted.

For those who are not so talented to portray characters in front of 50 to 100 sets of eyes, the blood sweat and tears that go on behind the curtains are never seen. But those intricate things that make a play

what it is—the dedication, hard work, and bonding among cast and crew of a play—is where the real show is.

The Shelton State Theatre department has just finished putting on a comedy called *The Miss Firecracker Contest*.

Every part of the play was performed by the students of the theatre department, with only a few exceptions. The director was the talented leader of the Shelton theatre department, Michael Carr. Costumes

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Inside The Courier



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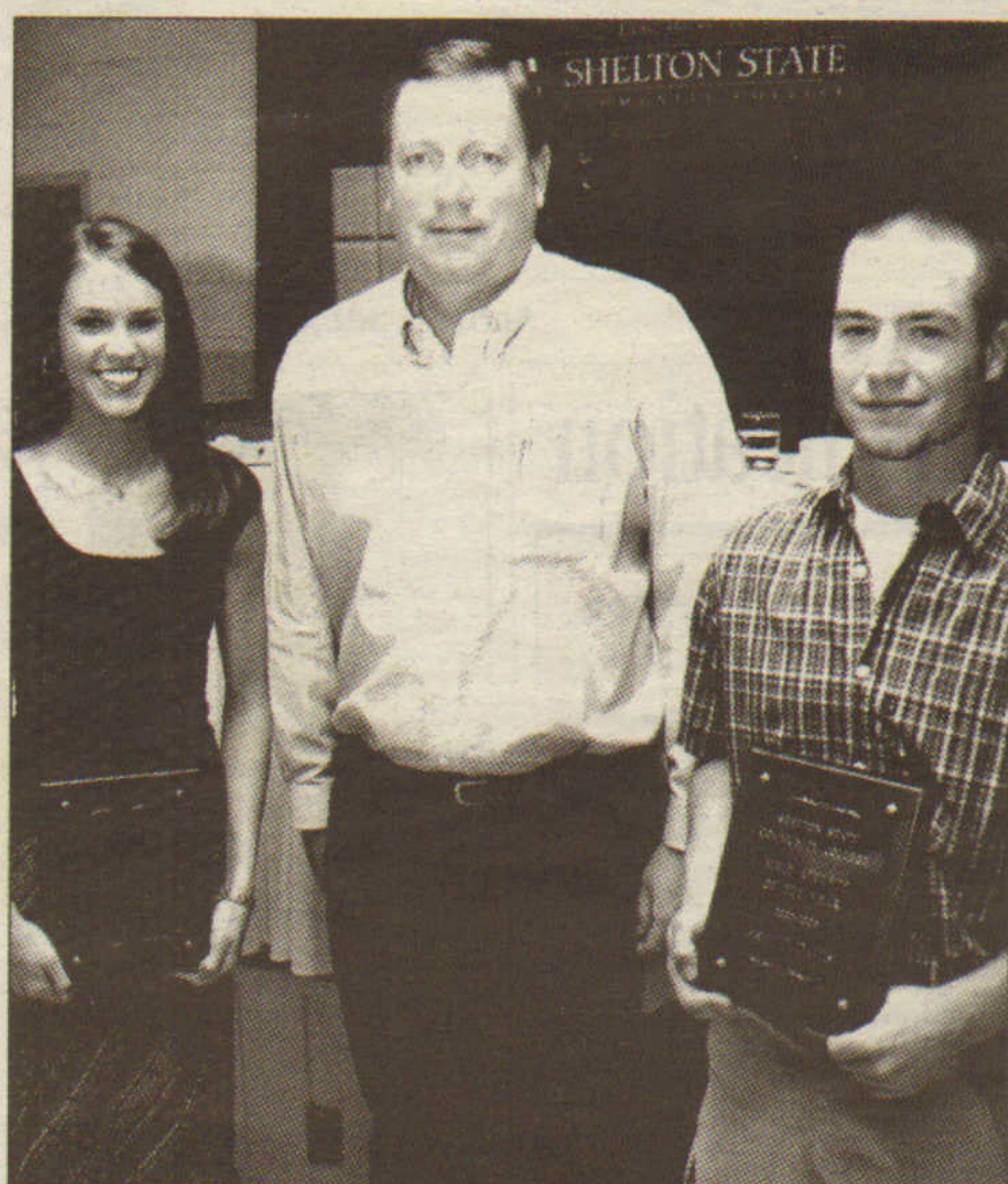


Photo by Jason Collins

At the top

Two of Shelton's most accomplished students were honored on Thursday, April 17, with the awarding of the initial student-athlete awards. Athletic Director Barry Mohun presented plaques to Crystal Roberts and Brett Davis. Roberts was on the 2002 all-state tournament team in softball and has a 3.65 GPA. Davis, captain of the baseball team, has a 3.7 GPA.

Shelton State gives back with Project Graduation

From Staff Reports

The Alpha Epsilon Iota Chapter of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society at Shelton State Community College is participating in Project Graduation ... Feed a Body, Feed a Mind, an initiative designed to help alleviate hunger and illiteracy in our community.

Graduating students and their guests are asked to bring non-perishable food items or books to the college atrium May 6-8.

The canned goods will be given to the Hannah Home, a residential program for abused and homeless women and their children.

"Such a simple gesture of bringing a canned good or book to our commencement ceremony will help improve the quality of life in our community," said Dr. Rick Rogers, president of Shelton State Community College.

"We are excited to have this opportunity."

"As student leaders within our college, we are pleased to be at the helm of this new initiative," said Steve Johnson, Phi Theta Kappa president.

"We are proud to give graduating students an opportunity to give back to the community that has supported them throughout their community college experience."

"The Hannah Home is always in need of contributions. We are thankful to the students at Shelton State Community College for assisting their community in this way," said Sharon Roach, director of Hannah Home.

"Together we can make a positive step in the elimination of hunger and illiteracy in the Tuscaloosa County area"

For further information about Project Graduation, please contact Nora Lee at 391-2367.



Off the Shelf...

By Glen Johnson

In Lee Smith's *The Last Girls*, four women, friends since college, come back together to relive a summer of 35 years ago when all four plus the beautiful Margaret "Baby" Ballou floated down the Mississippi from Paducah to New Orleans.

The only difference is this time they're carrying Baby's ashes with them.

Candida Wilton has been betrayed, rejected, divorced and alienated from her three daughters. And in Margaret Drabble's *The Seven Sisters*, Candida is pitched from her beautiful Georgian home in Suffolk and landed in a two-room walk-up apartment in a

dingy section of central London. And yet, not exactly destitute, she adapts. Atta-girl, Candida!

A.S. Bayatt's *A Whistling Woman* packs more plot per page than many readers will be able to handle. But for those intrepid enough to stick around for credits, they'll have gotten in-depth looks at London in the late 60's.

High pressure television careers careen with tumult in Yorkshire.

Stodgy university researchers cross paths with charismatic leaders from the "anti-university." It's all just part of the show in *A Whistling Woman*.

Speech

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began on a new and exciting part of Shelton State that represents more than time.

This structure is the clock tower and it stirred up curiosity among the students. Some even called it a Mini Denny, as in Denny Chimes at the University. But nonetheless, it brought the current students, attention to the college's 50th anniversary, and we realized what an amazing journey this has been.

Today, we dedicate the clock tower. It is an honor to be a part of this 50th year celebration because we are the students at the time of the dedication and we will be the ones to remember the building of the clock. It represents a legacy of Shelton State's successful history and a hope for the future. While the clock will be a permanent fixture of the school, believe it or not, it is not the real legacy here.

We, the past and current students, hold the legacy of Shelton State. While the actual history of Shelton is important, the school is "graded" by the community according to the students performance out in the work place in the real world. If the students work well, Shelton is represented well. Our education begins in the classroom, the most important aspect of a school. Our teachers are the heart of Shelton State Community college, and without their dedication to the students, their efforts to make us successful means nothing. Every teacher I've had here has been nothing but wonderful. They are the backbone of any school and they encourage and support their students in and out of the classroom.

While teachers are vital to a school, administration and support staff are also key figures. These individuals, especially Dean Humphrey Lee and Deborah Bonner, have personally impacted me. They encouraged me to be more than a classroom student here at Shelton and I have been so blessed because of their efforts. I have gotten involved in Ambassadors and Phi Theta Kappa, and from there I realized how much I wanted to serve the school. I want to thank them for making my experiences at Shelton more than I could have hoped for. Dean Lee has opened my eyes to the many opportunities offered by many student organizations and never ceased to encourage me to try for every scholarship and for every award. Because of his efforts, I have received a full 2-year transfer scholarship to the University.

On the other hand, Deb saw in me what I didn't know I even had. She selected me to be an Ambassador and in my 2nd year, I started working for her. She opened many doors for me and gave me opportunities that weren't there before. I never thought I could be so involved in something until I saw someone with such enthusiasm for it. I wanted to do more and more and I got reeled in to every activity simply because I wanted to and not so that I could put it on a resume.

In the past, some students have considered Shelton State a last resort for college, but that notion has changed. Today, Shelton is viewed as a valuable asset to a college career. At a two-year college, a student can receive core credit hours and at the same time enhance their study skills to prepare to transfer to a 4-year college.

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Shelton State Courier

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The Shelton State Courier is a campus newspaper, written and produced with the help of students.

Among other functions, it is intended as a vehicle for student expression, and all students are urged to participate with submissions of written and artistic material.

The college seeks to fulfill the statement for academic

freedom in working with the students in the production of this paper.

All publications are subject to review by the Publications Action Group, which has been delegated the responsibility to review all college publications for content and accuracy.

The Courier is an equal opportunity employer and student organization. All students are encouraged to participate.

Era

From Page 1

milestone that brings a new beginning to Shelton including hopes, dreams, aspirations, and ambitions.

"The clock tower is a sign of strength, stability and direction for the future," said Hester.

Jennifer Taylor, a Shelton State student, spoke in regards to the feelings of the student body and also expressed her own personal experience she has had at Shelton. Taylor said she has watched the construction and improvement added just in the two years she has been at Shelton, and she noticed how the building of the clock tower stirred up many questions with students, some even referring to it as the "Mini Denny."

However, according to Taylor, it is now apparent that the clock tower represents the legacy of Shelton State's history and how the students hold this legacy in their hands. Also, Taylor said, her experience at Shelton has been a great one because the "teachers and faculty look at each student as a person, not a number."

There was a great turn out for the dedication including many students and faculty. Rick Rogers, president of Shelton State, introduced several special guests that have made the building of the clock tower possible.

The last speaker was Roy Johnson, chancellor of Alabama College System, who touched on the foundation of Shelton State. According to Johnson, in 1947, George Wallace passed legislation to create four trade schools in Alabama, Shelton State being third of those four choices. The college was placed on 15th Street where it created "roots for it to spring." Johnson said, as the college grew, it expanded its mission, which was to become a comprehensive community college, and it finally founded a home on the site it stands on today.

According to Johnson, there has never been better leadership committed to making a college grow serving all of West Alabama with technical and academic availability. Johnson said, "After 50 years, we're just beginning to get good at what we do. This college changes lives because it gives an opportunity for education."

To conclude the dedication, Englewood Elementary, Shelton State's adopted school, led the audience outside to Shelton's back lawn to hear the chimes of the new clock tower strike noon. According to Tanner Bartom, a fifth grade student at Englewood Elementary, in fifty years from now, when people see the clock tower, they will remember the day it was dedicated and how the crowd grew silent after hearing the first bell ring.

Speech

From Page 2

My dad always encouraged me to come to Shelton. He owns a service station that used to be across from the Skyland campus and because some of his customers were employees of Shelton, he got to know a lot of them and a lot about the school.

Because of my parents, I looked forward to coming to Shelton State. I didn't apply to Alabama or Auburn, but instead, I wanted to prepare myself for these universities at Shelton. I came to Shelton State in order to get my core classes and decide on a career. In doing this, I learned valuable study skills for college classes and gained that confidence that I could succeed at the University. Over the past two years, I have grown to love Shelton, not as a place to bring my GPA up or as a last resort, but as a home to me. The teachers and administration look at each student as a person and not a number. They are available to help and truly want each student to succeed. Because of the teachers at Shelton, I feel I have gained more knowledge in the classroom more than I could have anywhere else.

As you can see, I have a lot of love for Shelton. I have excelled in my academics and have really gotten to know a lot of great people. I am proud to say that I have spent two wonderful years here and I hope to represent Shelton in the best way possible out in the real world. I am only one of 7,000 students that are getting an education here. I can only imagine what all of us can do in the work force as representatives of Shelton.

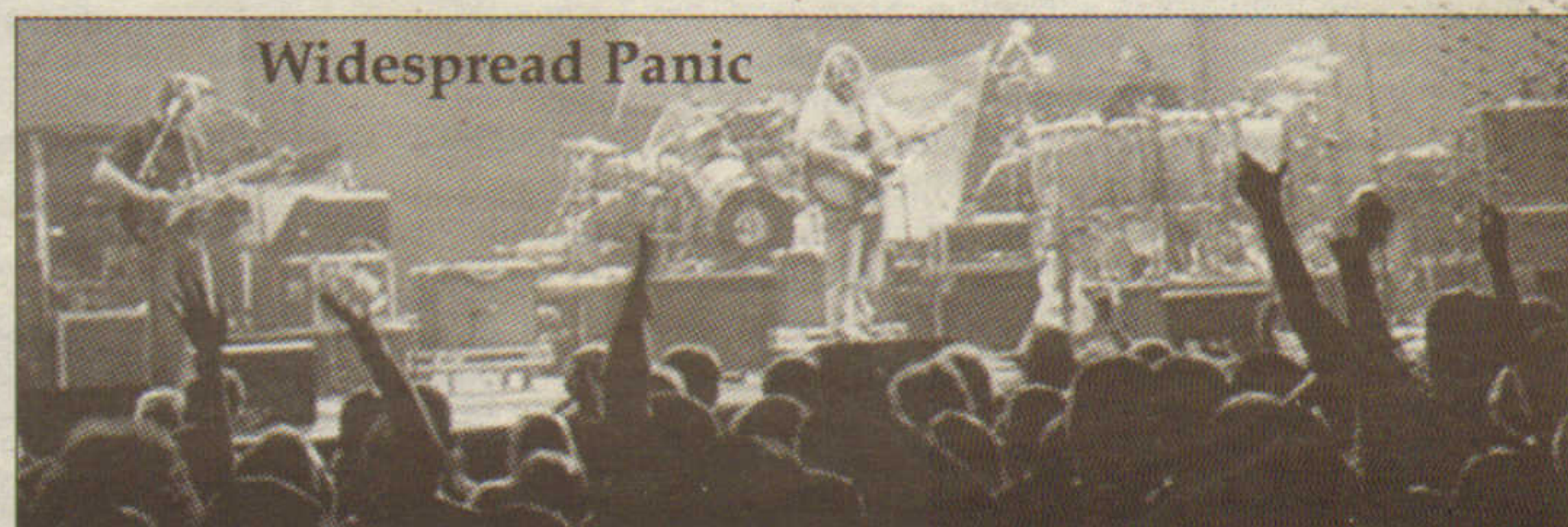
As we dedicate this tower, I encourage Shelton's current and former students to look at this clock and see a symbol of 50 years that resulted in where we are today. We are at a historic event in the story of Shelton State Community College. Speaking for all students, I am proud of the legacy that Shelton State has built of academic excellence and look to the promise of future leadership for Tuscaloosa.

Kritix Korner

By Chris McNac

I have yet to understand the big fuss over Widespread Panic. The band, brandishing a style of Southern rock informed by jazz and blues textures, is known for its constant touring and loyal grass-root followers. After releasing its newest album "Ball," Widespread Panic plans a stop in Birmingham around early to mid May and, like always, there's sure to be a crowd, or at least from what I've heard.

However, any other non-loyal fans of this neo-hippie jam band can read the following article and get much better background information to help you decide if this is a band for you, but personally, don't expect to find me at the show.



Fans look forward to Birmingham concert

By Drew Hill
Staff Writer

Southern rock "jam band" Widespread Panic, whose fans treat their music as a way of life (often following the band from coast to coast) is set to play downtown Birmingham on May 9 and 10, but not without controversy.

When the band rolls into Warehouse District it will certainly bring with it a barrage of hippiesque fans who will in turn, throw the ultimate tailgate party, which includes a row of vendors, reminiscent of the French market and affectionately known as Shakedown Street.

On Shakedown, one can purchase any and everything the Widespread Panic fan might need such as tie-dye shirts, homemade goods, hemp jewelry, snacks (mostly vegetarian), or beer. In the distance a drum circle forms while fans groove to the beats in delight.

This may sound like a Utopian experience to some, but the scene the fans have created has brought its fair share of negative publicity. The band, which has played Oak Mountain Amphitheatre in Pelham every year since 1993 was banned from the venue following 200 plus arrests (most of which misdemeanor drug charges) over the course of a three night concert in April of 2002.

True fans say that the Oak Mountain fiasco

is not a true representation of the band and cite last year's Bonnaroo Festival, where Widespread Panic headlined to a crowd of 100,000 people, and fewer than 10 arrests were made. Others say Panic actually helps the communities they play in with programs such as Panic Fans For Food which collects canned goods for the area's homeless.

So what is it about Widespread Panic that keeps the fans coming back? Perhaps for some it is the free-for-all party scene in the parking lots which makes one think they have time warped 35 years into the past, but most fans say it is the music.

Matt Clark, who has seen the band 40 times says it can't be explained. "It's an experience you have to have for yourself," he said. Another fan, Heather Sutter, simply states that "kicking back and listening to Panic makes me happy to be alive."

One thing is for sure, Widespread Panic, still in a transitional phase following the August 2002 death of guitarist Michael Houser, is sure to continue pumping out mind bending jams as well as new selections from their latest album Ball.

In the meantime, local fans will count down to May 9 and 10, waiting to fill the streets of downtown Birmingham dancing and twirling towards musical ecstasy.

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Lady Bucs slide into state tournament

By Kim West
Staff Writer

The Shelton State softball team isn't letting the recent bad weather and a few rain-outs dampen its spirits.

That's because the Lady Bucs are one of the hottest teams in the conference heading into the state tournament, which begins later this week on May 1-3 in Alexander City.

Despite canceling its last two home series against Southern Union and Gadsden State last week due to rain, Shelton State needs only to sweep last-ranked Snead State on March 27 to win a share of the Division II North championship with Jeff State and Northwest-Shoals.

The Lady Bucs possess a .342 hitting attack that's second only to NW-Shoals.

Their defense leads the conference with a .943 fielding percentage, and their pitching is allowing just 1.11 earned runs per game.

And Shelton State is 10-0 since April 1 by outscoring its opponents 73-12.

"Our hitting has come a long way from the beginning of the season," Shelton State softball coach Melissa Bautista said. "Everyone has improved a lot."

The Lady Bucs will probably face Alabama Southern, a D-II South team, in the first round of the tournament. Shelton State beat the Lady Eagles last season en route to the state championship game and twice this season.

If Shelton State advances, they could face either Jeff State or NW-Shoals.

The Lady Bucs went 3-1 against NW-Shoals this season, but only 1-4 against Jeff State, although all four losses happened during the first half of the season.

Shelton State's biggest obstacle will be defending champion Wallace State-Dothan, the team the Lady Bucs lost to in last year's final. WS-Dothan hasn't skipped a beat this year and is undefeated in the D-II South conference and 26-3 overall.

But the Lady Bucs are peaking at the right time and

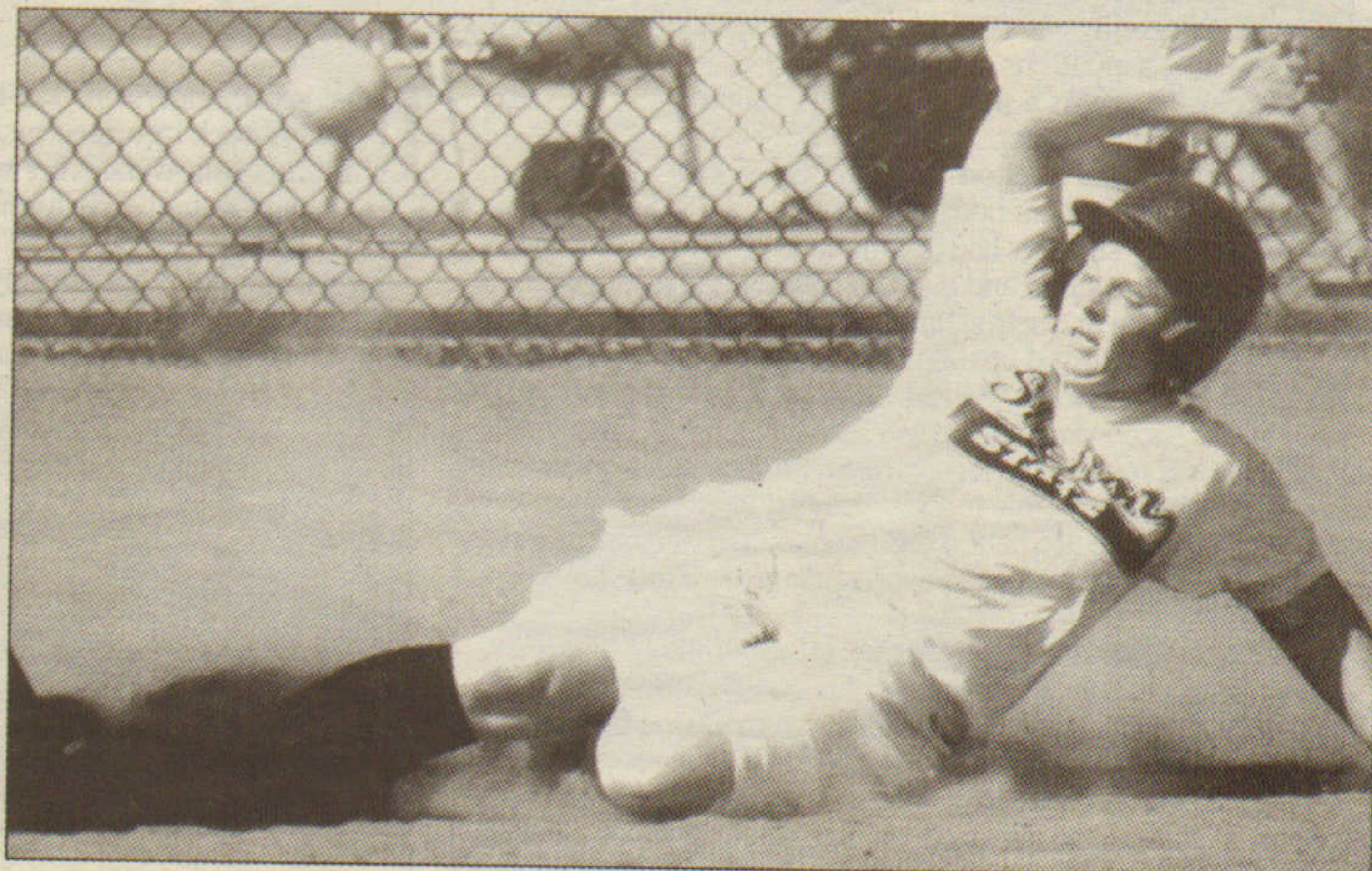


Photo by Jason Collins

Freshman catcher Alicia Fields scores as she slides into home during the Lady Bucs game against Meridian on April 18.

are confident they can match up with any team in the state.

"As long as we keep playing like we have, we'll have a chance to win it all this year," Bautista said.

Sophomores Amy Busing,

Cara Roberts, Sara Winton, Darbi Sams and Teresa Stephens were recently named to the All-Region team. Busing and Roberts were also named All-Region last year, and both are batting over .400.

Winton is 13-7 as a starter and leads the team with a 1.10 ERA, 72 strikeouts and four shutouts.

Stephens is hitting .396 with 18 RBIs, while Sams is batting .341 with 14 RBIs.



Photo by Jason Collins

Batters up

Hunter Richardson, Tom Whitaker and Matt Downs get ready to bat during a Bucs games against Wallace-Hanceville on April 18. At last report, the Bucs were 20-15 for the season.

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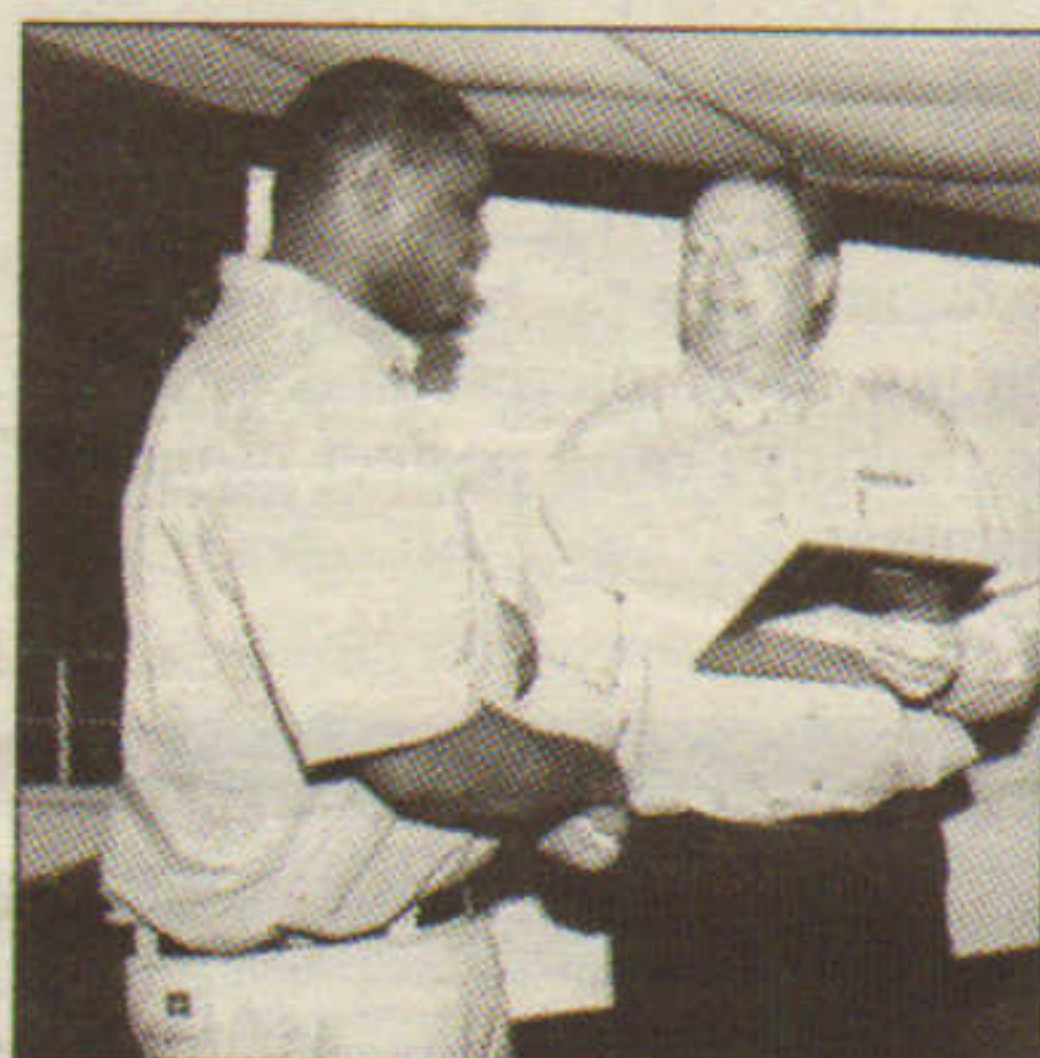
with a Shelton State student or faculty/staff I.D.



Photo by Courier Staff

Hoop, there it is

The crew of the state champion Buccaneers took to the waterways recently to enjoy a cruise along the Black Warrior as they celebrated their landmark season. Highlights of the team banquet included the viewing of the season video, featuring many high-flying dunks and precision 3-point shooting. Awards were presented to the following players: Tim Lewis —



Captain, Most Valuable Player; Jeremy Law — Best Offensive Player; Jarmarr Hill, Mr. Hustle; Adrian Davidson — Buc Spirit Award; Patrick Culver — Most Improved; Tavaris Swann — Best Defender; Andrew Linn — Coaches' Award; Joseph Martin — Best Rebounder; Ronald Jenkins — Ashanti McDonald Award (for dedication, hard work and overcoming injury); Dusty Baugh — Captain. At left, Head Coach Barry Mohun presents Davidson with the Buc Spirit Award.

Sparks — From Page 1

were designed by Jeanette Robertson, and Charlie Dennis and Jan Mize built the set (of which they did a particularly ingenious job, creating a rotating set that changed at the intermission from a house scene to a fair ground scene).

When a show is being put on, every part of the cast and crew is important. Jerrell Bowden, stage manager for the show, knew this and recognized the great cast he had from the very start.

"The actors have been doing very well; they are always on top of things and, they have come along very well," said Bowden. "It also helps that I have the best crew ever assembled. Brandon and Josh, Betsy and Cheryl they have been so great!"

Bowden also knew that, with the first show coming up in only two days, the last two rehearsals are crucial for removing kinks the show might have in order to avoid a big problem, or "train wreck" as the cast likes to call it.

"There have been no problems up to now. I may have put a curtain [on the set] in the wrong place, but nothing major has gone wrong," Bowden said. "Everything is going pretty smoothly so far for this to be my first show."

Although the show is going well at the moment, Bowden did admit to feeling a bit of pressure. "Oh, I'm sweating bullets," he said. "I've been sweating bullets all week, and I will be until the show's finished!"

While the stage manager talks to the director out in front of the stage, the actors and stage hands prepare for the run-

through backstage. A stroll around the backstage of a show is one of the most amazing things a non-actor can experience. The curtains hang from rafters that tower over the stage. It is nearly pitch black, and unless you know what it is you are grabbing you best not touch it. Actors run on and off stage and grab props strategically placed so that they can dart back onto the stage. The glow of the stage lights provide the only guidance backstage, and the echoes of voices and audience laughter are the only sounds.

To the right of the stage there are three long tables set up with nothing but props scattered all over them. This headache of a job, props, was taken on by Amy McLaurine, a graduate of Open Door.

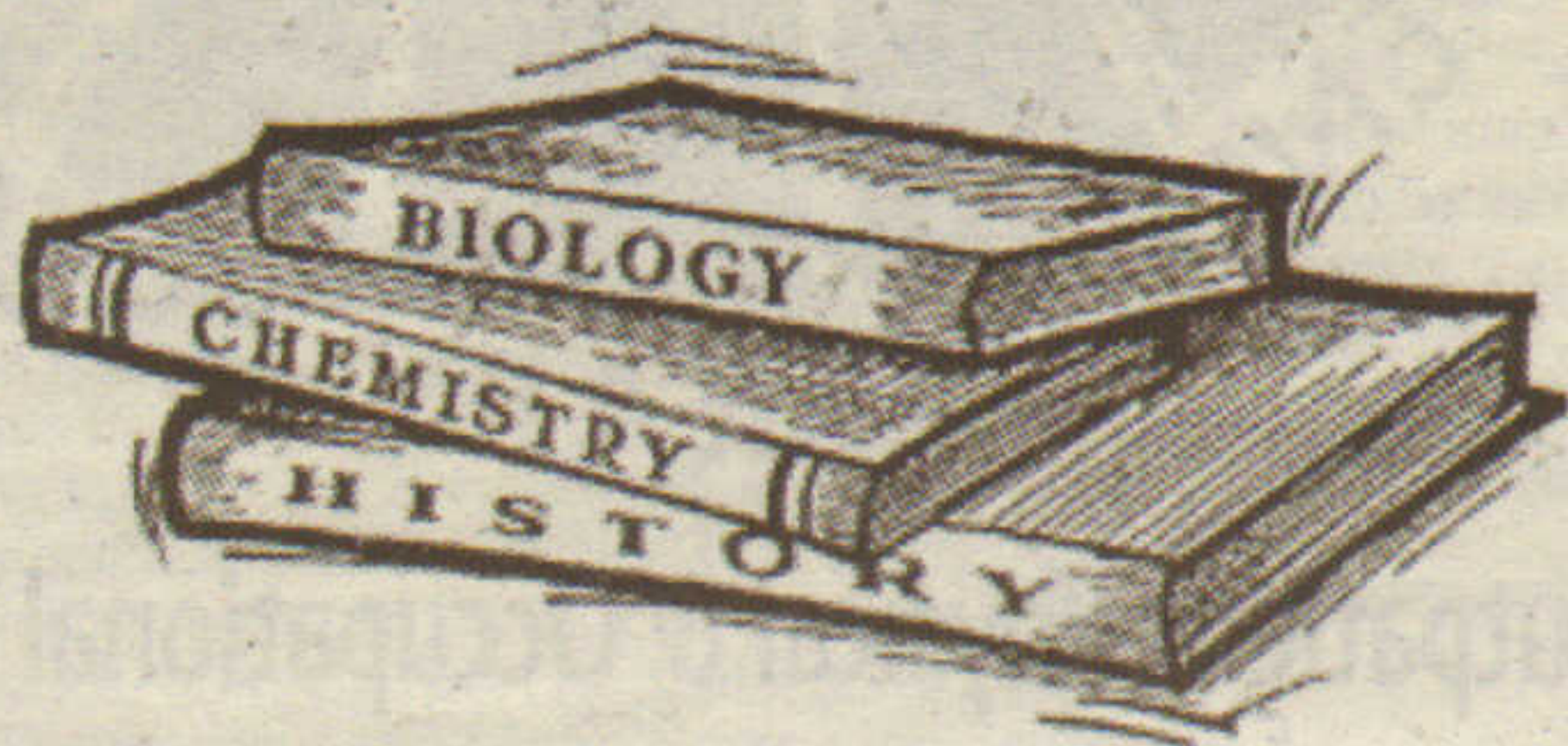
"I will never do props again after this play," she jokes with a sigh. "This play has so many props, it is unbelievable."

She likes to refer to herself as the "prop goddess," and she also enjoys playing a prank or two on the cast. One of the six characters in the play, Tessy, is scripted to eat a bowl of ice cream on stage during the show. The ice cream had been melting because of the lights, so Amy decided to have a little fun. She replaced the ice cream with mashed potatoes; and the reaction was priceless. Jonathan Pate's face curled up in disgust as he took a bite of the lumpy potatoes, expecting ice cream.

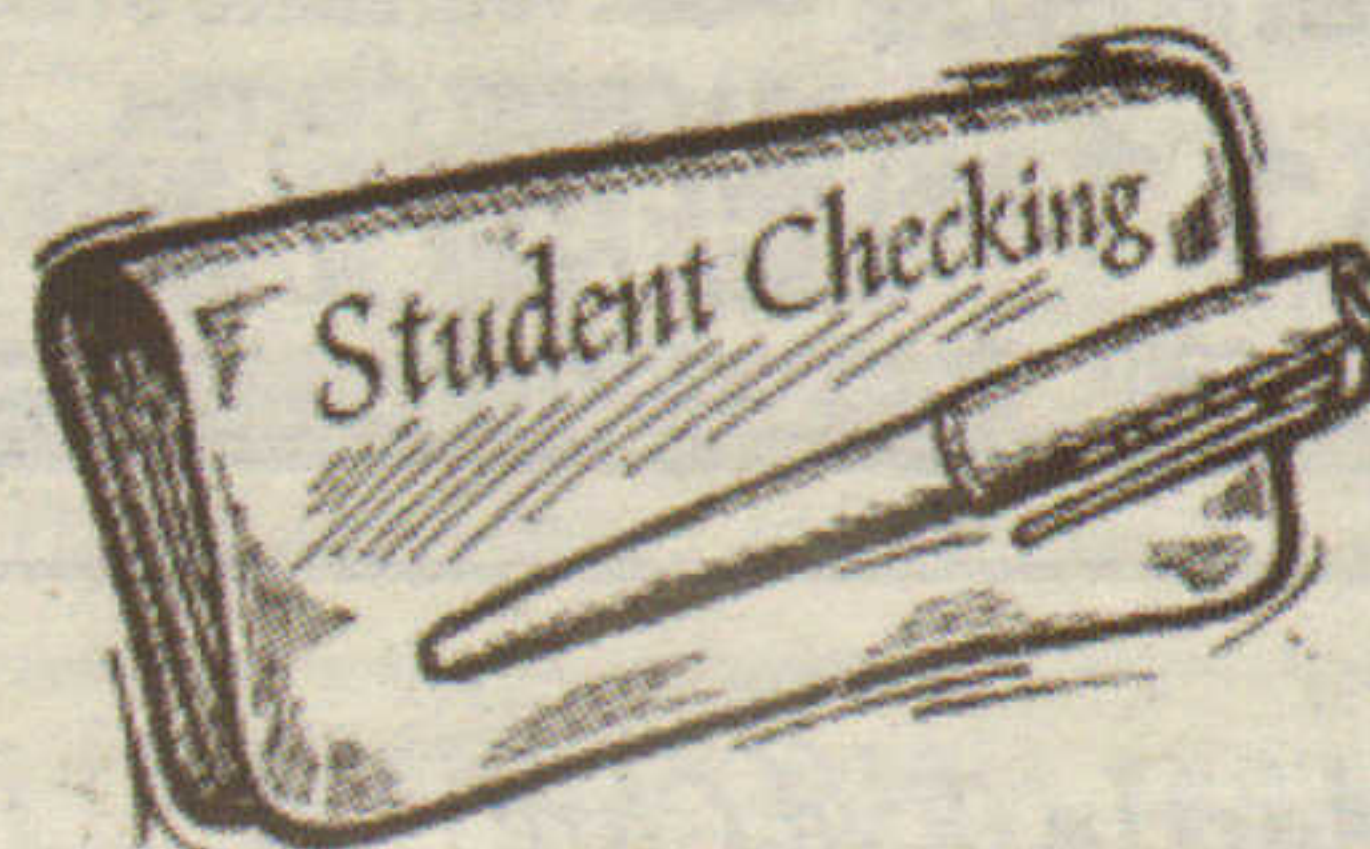
That is right; Jonathan Pate took a bite of the potatoes. You see, the character in the play, Tessy Mahoney (a girl), was played by a guy. This was one of the best kept secrets the theatre department has ever had, as not only was the name

See Sparks, page 6

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Sparks — From Page 5

"Joanne Pate" printed up in the program for the show, but also in the Tuscaloosa News.

"It definitely caused some blushing and giggling when we first started reading through the script" claimed Pate, who does a wonderful job portraying the play's second act scene stealer. "And it made the sexual tension between Tessy and Delmont very interesting and entertaining."

"It added an element of comedy behind the scenes for the cast," said Susie Johnson who plays Elaine Rutledge. "It helped keep the comedy fresh for us, because it was a little different."

Pate showed no shame in playing the part of a girl, and in fact, he got the part he tried out for.



"I was there for auditions, and Jonathan wanted the part of Tessy. I told Jonathan not to get his hopes up, but he blew us away," said stage manager Bowden. "When Michael [Carr] decided he was best for the part I was so excited for Jonathan."

When opening night arrived very few, if any of the audience, were aware of the switch that had been made. The show goes down without a hitch, and the audience gets their fill of excellent comedy and acting.

The weeks of hard work and time spent behind the scenes finally comes to life in front of the bright lights and the live audience. Before the show, Michael Carr had called a meeting in the green room to discuss the night ahead of the cast and crew.

"Remember, you need to have fun out there and relax, because there is no such thing as a perfect show," Carr said.

The audience for every performance seems to differ with the director's pragmatic statement. The cast seems to pull off the comedy of eccentric Southern manners flawlessly. Erin Jo Vinson as the would-be Miss Firecracker. "Carmella Scott" yearns for love, attention and redemption in an innocent, bubbling and endearing way.

Lisa Bordelon plays the earnest, befuddled seamstress "Popeye" totally convincingly. Jeremy Hall is perfectly



Photos by Jonathan King

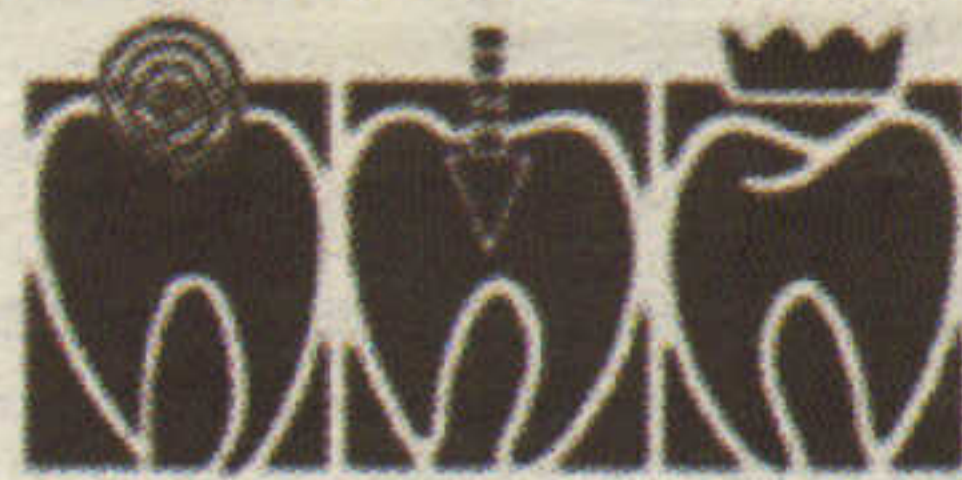
Above, Michael Carr, head of Shelton's theatre department and director of the play, gives a pep talk in the green room before the first performance of The Miss Firecracker Contest. At left, Lisa Bordelon poses for a photo before taking the stage to play "Popeye Jackson."

amoral as Mac Sam. And Ben Japha is the ideal mixture of dashing romantic and squelched Southern male.

But it's freshman Susie Johnson playing a fading-yet-hopeful 30-something who really nails the challenge.

She takes a seamless turn at playing something she's so not.

Throw in a big ol' boy playing an unappealing love interest and you've got the makings of a perfect night of entertainment.



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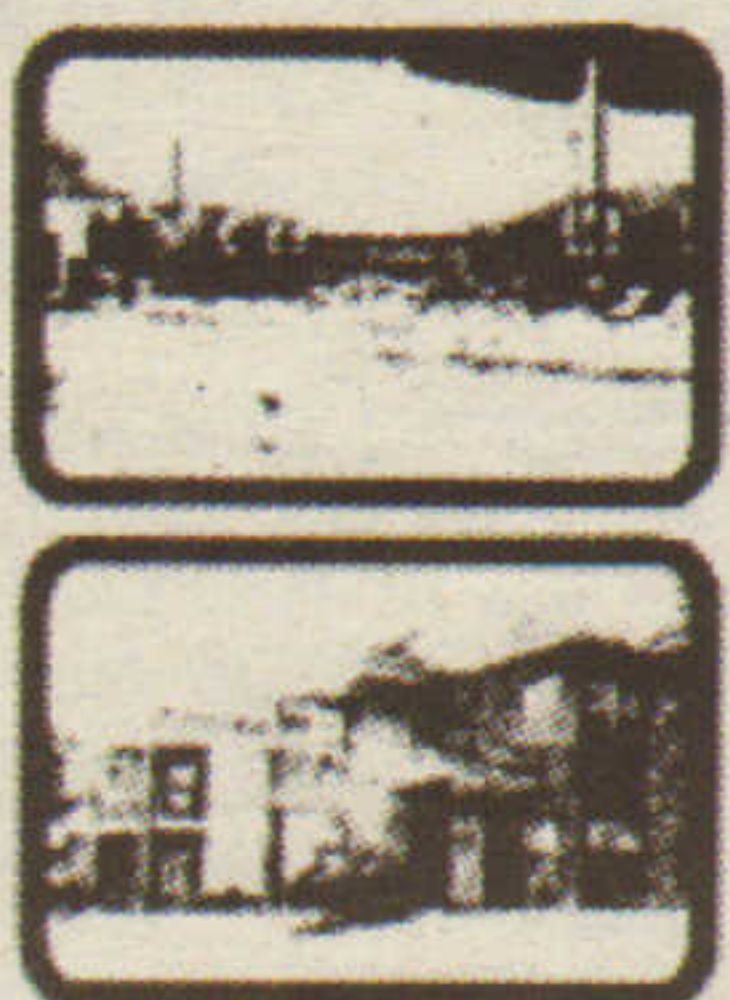
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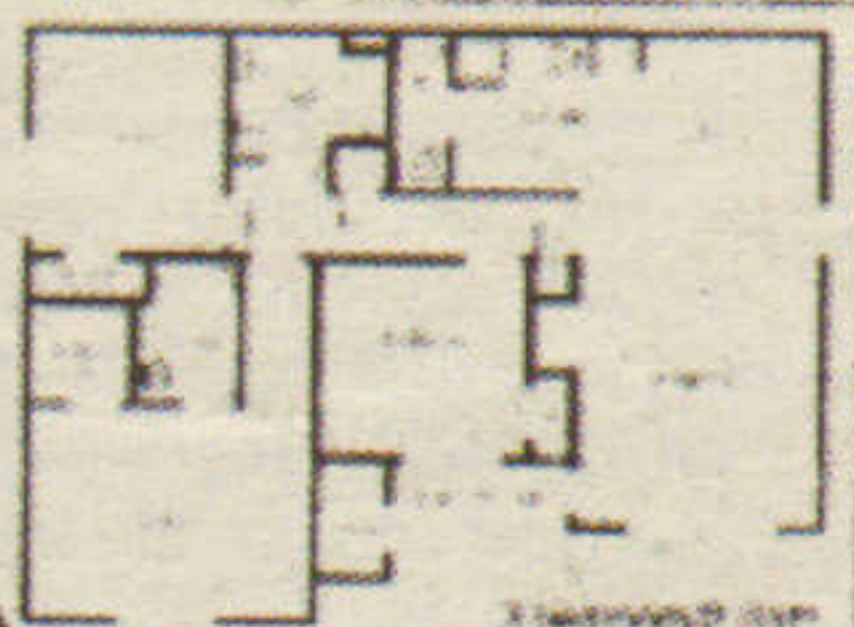
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Name all of Alabama's public universities that are best values.*

1. University of Montevallo
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

*According to *U.S. News & World Report's
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